Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 17

Farmers took full advantage of hot sunny weather this past week, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn planting surged ahead, bringing progress close to the average for this date. Soybean planting followed suit, also making rapid progress. The best progress for both crops occurred in the northern two-thirds of the state, as many farmers in the southern region were still slowed by wet field conditions.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Corn planting advanced to 51 percent complete, well behind 84 percent last year, but only slightly behind the 54 percent average for this date. By region, corn planting is 65 percent complete in the north, 54 percent complete in the central, and 20 percent complete in the south. Fifteen percent of the corn is **emerged**. By region, 17 percent is emerged in the north, 18 percent in the central, and 8 percent in the south. **Soybean planting** is 21 percent complete, well behind 51 percent last year and 4 percent behind the average. Six percent of the soybean crop is **emerged**. By region, 7 percent is emerged in the north, 6 percent in the central, and only 1 percent in the south.

WINTER WHEAT

One-hundred percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared to 96 percent last year. Sixty-seven percent of the crop is **headed**, well ahead of 27 percent last year and the 25 percent average. By region, 31 percent is headed in the north, 70 percent in the central, and 92 percent headed in the south. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 82 percent good to excellent, compared to 69 percent at this time last year.

OTHER CROPS

Pasture condition is rated 24 percent excellent, 61 percent good, 14 percent fair and 1 percent poor. Transplanting of **tobacco** is 7 percent complete.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 4.1 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 30 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 1 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 30 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	51	14	84	54
Corn Emerged	15	4	NA	NA
Soybeans Planted	21	3	51	25
Soybeans Emerged	6	NA	NA	NA
Winter Wheat Headed	67	37	27	25

CROP CONDITION

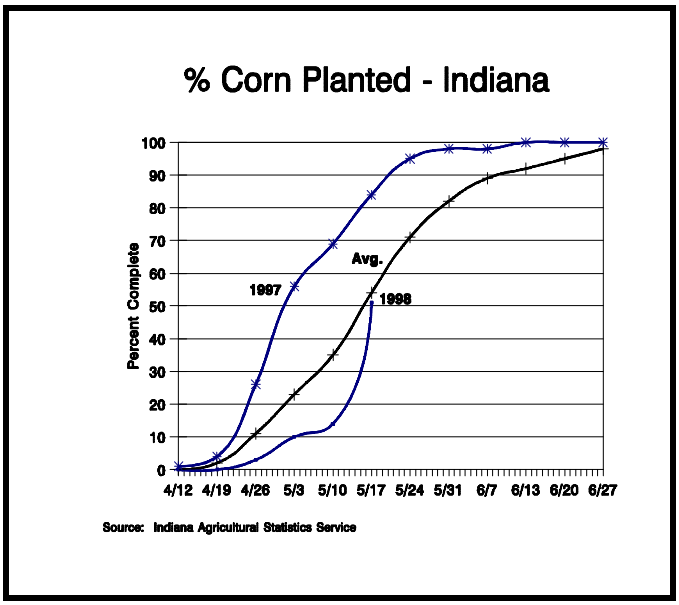
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat 5/17	1	1	16	56	26
Winter Wheat 5/10	0	2	17	54	27
Winter Wheat 1997	0	4	27	56	13
Pasture	0	1	14	61	24

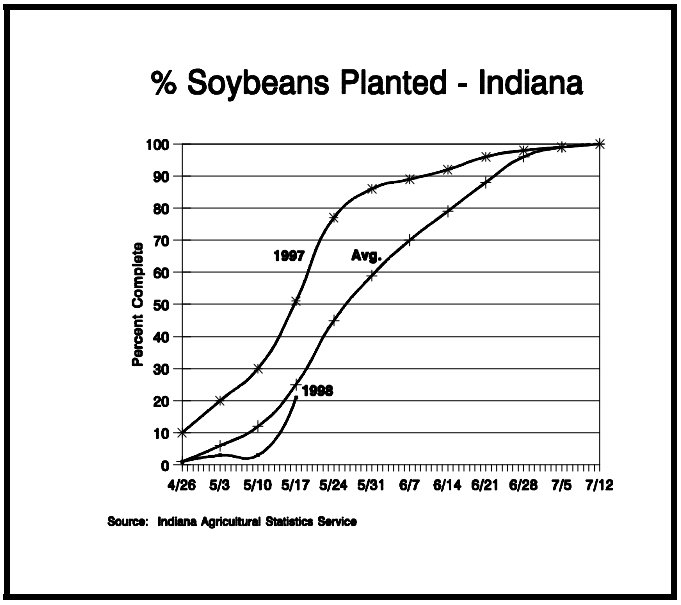
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	0	14
Adequate	69	14	77
Surplus	30	86	9
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	0	5
Adequate	69	29	85
Surplus	30	71	10

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Lance Honig, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress





Leaf Blotch and Glume Blotch of Wheat

Leaf Blotch

- Recent weather indicates we may see a lot more of these diseases.

The widespread and persistent rains last week, coupled with warm temperatures, were ideal for leaf and glume blotch of wheat. I expect to see infections appear on upper leaves over the next couple of weeks. At this stage there is nothing to be done, except to monitor the crop to see how much damage there is. As of now, I would expect to see more damage from blight on wheat in southern Indiana than elsewhere, because wheat there had already headed while the rain was falling. This means that heads as well as leaves will be blighted. If the weather clears off, wheat in northern Indiana will probably develop considerable leaf blight from infections that occurred last week, but the heads will be free of glume blotch.

Fields that were treated with a fungicide should be monitored closely and compared with untreated areas, to judge the efficacy of treatment. I repeatedly hear that some fields treated with a fungicide have much better yield and grain quality than untreated fields, whereas others do not. I think this is the result of subtle interactions between when the fungicide is applied and when infection takes place. In some cases, the fungicide is put on just at the right time (just before or immediately after an infection event), and control is good. In other cases, the fungicide may be applied too late, and the damage has already been done (but is not yet visible at the time of fungicide application). Although we continue to run replicated field trials each year, it is important for chemical dealers, agricultural consultants, and farmers to keep their own records on efficacy of treatment, in order to realistically access the value of fungicide treatments on wheat over many different environments.

Scab of Wheat

- About a week after flowering is the time to start checking wheat fields for scab.

As the wheat crop enters the flowering stage of growth, the question of scab arises. The scab fungus, *Gibberella zeae* (AKA *Fusarium graminearum*) survives the winter in corn residue. Reduced tillage that leaves corn residue on the soil surface means there is a lot more of the fungus available to infect wheat compared to a clean tillage system. If wheat is planted in or near corn residue, severe scab will develop if conditions are favorable for infection. *Gibberella* zeae infects wheat heads during and just after flowering. If weather is wet and warm at that time, infection will occur. The first symptoms of scab are bleached heads. Sometimes

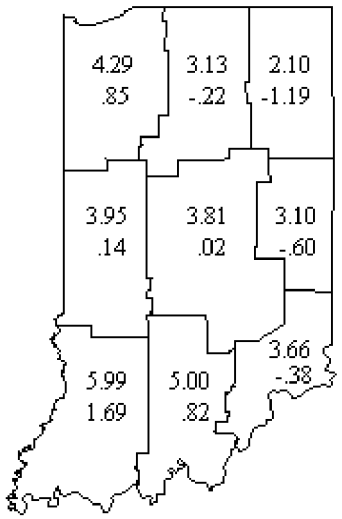
(Continued on Page 4.)

Average Daily Values for week ending Monday morning May 18, 1998

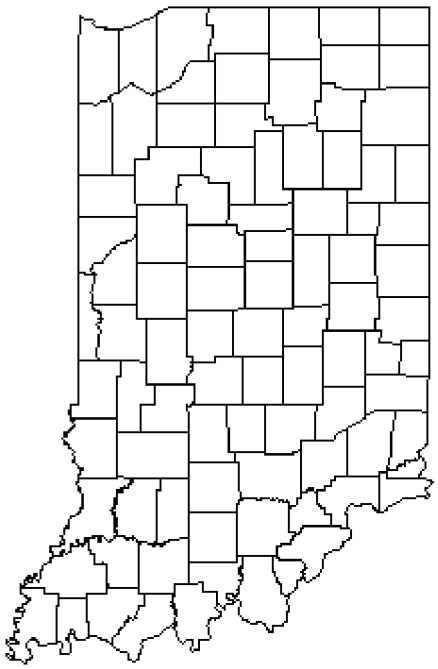
Area	Station	Air Temperature			Precipitation			Growing Degree Days		
		Max	Min	DN	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1	Past Week	Since April 1	DN Since April 1
NW	Wanatah	83	53	+9	.12	6.92	+1.08	133	423	+143
	Kentland	83	58	+10	.00	7.07	+1.34	145	479	+138
	Winamac	83	56	+9	.00	6.56	+.95	138	454	+109
NC	South Bend	82	57	+10	.00	4.76	-.82	139	431	+140
	Waterford Mills	83	56	+10	.05	5.16	-.06	140	470	+149
NE	Prairie Heights	83	56	+12	.00	5.83	+.33	138	456	+197
	Columbia City	82	55	+10	.03	6.25	+.69	135	444	+139
	Fort Wayne	82	56	+9	.08	7.16	+1.85	137	450	+131
	Bluffton	83	57	+9	.00	6.67	+.98	142	465	+120
WC	West Lafayette	84	60	+11	.03	7.60	+1.70	154	489	+155
	Perrysville	82	58	+7	.05	6.54	-.31	141	500	+41
	Crawfordsville	83	52	+7	.00	6.58	+.79	131	476	+137
	Terre Haute 8s	86	59	+10	.00	7.55	+1.06	157	571	+163
C	Tipton	82	53	+8	.00	7.84	+1.76	127	430	+107
	Indianapolis	82	60	+9	.22	7.58	+1.56	153	513	+113
	Indian Creek	84	58	+10	.00	8.12	+1.61	150	530	+132
EC	Farmland	83	57	+11	.00	7.74	+2.05	143	476	+161
	Liberty	83	56	+9	.00	8.45	+1.90	140	487	+78
SW	Vincennes	84	58	+8	.00	11.72	+4.90	150	538	+99
	Dubois	84	59	+9	.00	10.66	+3.69	153	525	+101
	Evansville	85	60	+7	.01	11.12	+4.30	158	566	+59
SC	Bedford	83	56	+8	.00	15.85	+9.05	139	504	+86
	Louisville	85	63	+9	.00	8.77	+1.82	166	593	+89
SE	Butlerville	83	57	+7	.00	11.90	+5.25	142	519	+38

DN = departure from normal.
Growing Degree Days = daily mean - 50 (below 50 adjusted to 50, above 86 adjusted to 86.)

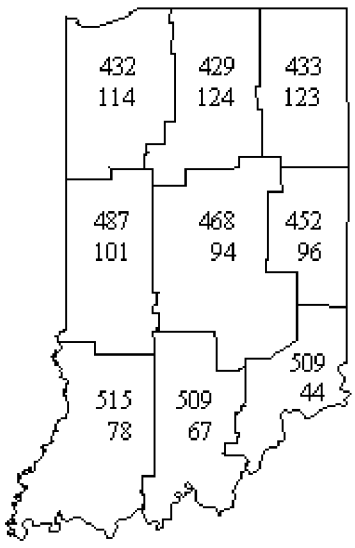
Rainfall for the Past 4 Weeks and Departure from Normal



Rainfall of 1 inch or more for the Past 7 Days as of Monday morning



Growing Degree Days and Departure since April 1



The above information is provided by Ken Scheeringa, Indiana State Climatologist (765)494-8105
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only part of the head is bleached-- the middle, tip, or base. Bleaching can show up within only a few days after flowering. Over the next few days, bleaching may extend to the entire head, and more heads in the field will show bleaching. This subsequent "spread" of the disease results from internal growth of the fungus throughout the head.

The wet weather last week may have caught some wheat in southern Indiana. County Educators there told me that some wheat was already flowering while the rains were falling. For the rest of the state, the current dry weather is good news. However, humidities seem fairly high, so even in the absence of rain, we may see some scab.

To assess damage from scab, one should estimate the proportion of heads that are blighted in several areas of the field. When looking over a large area, it is easy to overestimate disease incidence, because the blighted heads stand out conspicuously. It is more effective to look carefully at small areas and estimate the percentage of heads that show symptoms. If this is done in several areas of the field, one can arrive at a reasonably accurate assessment of scab.

At this stage, there is nothing that can be done to prevent scab or reduce damage. If scab does indeed become severe in Indiana, future articles will provide more information on dealing with the situation.

Wheat Yellow Mosaic

- If wheat fields look pale green or yellow, a virus may be the culprit.

An earlier issue of *Pest & Crop* (No. 2) discussed wheat yellow mosaic and wheat soilborne mosaic. As it turns out, symptoms of these virus diseases did not appear early in the spring, as is normally the case, but symptoms are appearing now. Most varieties are fairly resistant and may show only a mild mosaic (pale green streaks) on upper leaves. Some varieties, however, are very susceptible and show a conspicuous mosaic on all leaves. From a distance, the fields appear pale green or even yellow. Symptoms may be fairly uniform over a field, or may be more noticeable in wetter areas. If a field is severely affected by this disease, it would be a good idea to avoid this variety for future plantings. there are plenty of varieties that have good to moderate resistance. Variety demonstration trails afford an opportunity to compare varieties.

--Gregory Shaner, Dept. of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University

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